(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Under the election Laws and Rules, there is no form titled '49-(O)'. However, there exists Rule 49-O under the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 which provides an option to the elector not to record his vote. Under this Rule an elector, after his electoral roll number has been duly entered in the register of voters in Form-17A and has put his signature or thumb impression, decides not to record his vote, a remark to this effect is then made against the said entry in Form 14A by the Presiding Officer and the signature or thumb impression of the elector is obtained against such remarks.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Support for renewable energy sector

*430. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assured that full support would be provided for renewable energy sector;

(b) if so, the main details of the proposals being considered for the energy sector;

(c) whether Government has set up a committee on energy; and

(d) if so, what concrete steps and measures Government is going to take to meet the power shortage in the country?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) The Government is already providing support to renewable energy sector through a mix of fiscal and financial incentives. Central Financial Assistance ranging from about 30% to 90% of costs of various types of renewable energy systems/devices for different applications is being provided depending on the technology employed, location and user category. Fiscal incentives being provided include accelerated depreciation, nil/concessional excise and customs duties. Further benefit under Section 80-1A of Income Tax Act 1961 is available to undertakings setup for the generation or generation and distribution of Renewable power in India. The apart, preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power is being given in most potential States.

(b) Main proposals for energy sector, which are being acted upon are as contained in the Integrated Energy Policy formulated by the Government in December 2008 covering all sources of energy including renewables.

(c) An Energy Coordination Committee chaired by the Prime Minister has been constituted on 13th July, 2005 to enable a systematic approach to policy formulation, promote coordination in inter-departmental action and function as a key mechanism for providing institutional support to decision making in the area of energy planning and security.

(d) To improve overall availability of power in the country, the Government has taken various measures which include addition of generation capacity, development of Ultra Mega Power Projects, harnessing surplus captive power into the grid, strengthening and improving of sub-transmission system in States, promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures, and strengthening of inter-state and inter-regional transmission capacity.

Fall in hydro power generation

†*431. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power generation has fallen due to shortage of water in the reservoirs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the initiatives taken by Government to make up for the power shortage?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During April to June, 2009, against the target generation of 27, 060 Million Unit (MU) from Hydro Power Stations (above 25 MW), the actual generation was 25,261 MU, which is 93.35% of the target. The Sector/State-wise details of actual hydro generation vis-a-vis target are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Hydro power generation at reservoir based plants mainly depends on the natural factors such as availability of water from rainfall in the catchment area, snow melting during pre-monsoon period and water levels in the reservoir existing at the beginning of the year as well as irrigation requirements/releases. The enhancement in performance of hydro generating units is achieved through renovation, Modernization and up-rating of old units whose capacity declines with age.

However, the following measures are being taken by the Government to make up the shortfall in power generation:

- Enhancement of power generation from Thermal Power Stations.
- Import of coal on priority basis to bridge the gap between the requirement and availability of domestic coal.
- Arranging procurement of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) through spot purchases to meet shortfall in gas supplies for gas based stations.

In addition, the following Policy initiatives have been taken by the Government to increase the power generation during Eleventh Five Year Plan are as follows:

- Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of on-going generation projects.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.